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**Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at  
Los Alamos National Laboratory,  
Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**U. S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations  
528 35th Street  
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,**  
**NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at**  
**Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1429) (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of Alternatives; 3. Affected Environment; and 4. Environmental Consequences.

Analyses performed in the EA allow NNSA to conclude that potential adverse effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, under normal conditions, would be minimal. Engineering and administrative controls or considerations that serve to lessen any potential for adverse environmental effects have been incorporated as integral features of the Alternatives. Examples of this type of mitigating feature include: the use of previously disturbed sites for use as project staging areas and subsequent parking spaces; the use of Best Management Practices to prevent surface soil erosion and sediment migration where soil disturbance is unavoidable; the use of dust suppression measures during construction to minimize the generation of fugitive dust; and the reuse of concrete and asphalt rubble produced during construction and demolition actions.

The EA considered the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The impacts from the partial or total demolition of identified structures and the road construction clearings would be a minor contribution to the overall cumulative impacts.

**PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT:** On July 23, 2002, the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration invited review and comment on the predecisional draft EA from the State of New Mexico; four nearby American Indian Tribes: Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso (sometimes referred to as the four Accord Pueblos because each tribe has entered into an accord with the Department of Energy); the Pueblo of Acoma; and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The National Nuclear Security Administration also made the predecisional draft EA available to the general public at the same time it was provided to the State and Tribes for review and comment. The general availability of the predecisional draft EA to the public was accomplished by placing it in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms located within the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Relations Office and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque. Additionally, over 30 local stakeholder groups and individuals that have identified themselves as interested parties with regards to LANL

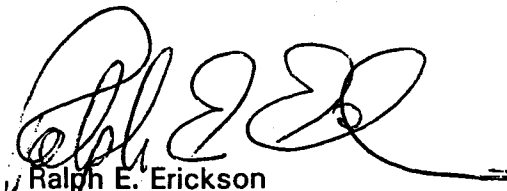
activities were notified by letter of the availability of the predecisional draft EA on July 23, 2002. Notice of the availability of the predecisional draft EA for review was also published in three local newspapers. Copies of the predecisional draft EA were provided to all interested parties for their review. The review and comment period was 21 days long and ended on August 12, 2002.

Six parties provided comments to the predecisional draft EA, including the State of New Mexico and the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. None of the other local pueblos and tribes offered comment on the predecisional draft EA. Comments received were addressed through changes to the Final EA and by providing individual comment response letters. Copies of the Final EA have been sent to the respondents.

**AGENCY CONSULTATIONS:** NNSA determined that the proposed activities would not affect individual Mexican spotted owls or their critical habitat and that no consultation was required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*). The proposed action would not affect recorded prehistoric archaeological sites or recorded Traditional Cultural Properties. These sites would be avoided and no effect to the resources is expected. NNSA is not required to engage in consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer according to section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act for these resources. The demolition of part of Building 3-40, if necessary, would be an adverse effect on a historic structure. A treatment plan to resolve this adverse effect would be negotiated between the State Historic Preservation Officer and the NNSA through an interagency Memorandum of Agreement as necessary.

**FINDING:** The United States Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration finds that there would be no significant impact from proceeding with its proposal to construct and operate access control and traffic improvement measures at Los Alamos National Laboratory as described in the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative of the subject Environmental Assessment. This finding is based on the Environmental Assessment, which analyzes the consequences of the relevant issues of environmental concern. The Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration makes this Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*], the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act [40 CFR 1500] and the Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021]. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 23rd day of August, 2002.



Ralph E. Erickson

Director

Office of Los Alamos Site Operations

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information on this proposal, this Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review program concerning proposals at Los Alamos National Laboratory, please contact:

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U.S. Department of Energy

National Nuclear Security Administration

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Los Alamos NM 87544

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Copies of this FONSI (with the Environmental Assessment attached) will be made available for public review at the DOE Public Reading Room within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Relations Office, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544 at (505) 665-4400 or (800) 508-4400. Copies will also be made available within the DOE Public Reading Room at the Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131 at (505) 277-5441.